

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Esch, *et al.*

(CIP of Appl. No.: 08/870,591)

Appl. No.: to be assigned

Filed: herewith

For: **Precipitated Silicas**

Art Unit: to be assigned

Examiner: to be assigned

Atty. Dkt. 21123/282431

Preliminary Amendment

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In advance of prosecution, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

In the Specification:

On the first page of the specification, after the title and before the section entitled "Field of the Invention," please add the following text:

-- Cross Reference to Related Applications

The present application is a continuation-in-part of application 08/870,591, filed on June 6, 1997, which is a continuation of U.S. 08/594,327, filed on January 30, 1996, which is a division of U.S. 08/319,490, filed on October 7, 1994. The '490 application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 to German application P 44 27 137.9, filed on July 30, 1994, and to German application P 43 34 201.9, filed on October 7, 1993. --

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-6 without prejudice.

Please add new claims 7-10 as follows:

- 7. A vulcanized rubber compound comprising precipitated silica having the following physico-chemical properties:
- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| BET surface area: | 35 to 350 m ² /g; |
| BET/CTAB surface area ratio | 0.8 to 1.1; |
| pore volume, PV | 1.6 to 3.4 ml/g; |
| silanol group density, ml of NaOH consumed in raising pH to 9 | 6 to 20 ml; |
| averaged aggregate size | 250 to 1500 nm; |
| CTAB surface area | 30 to 350 m ² /g; |
| DBP volume | 150 to 300 ml/100 g; |
| V ₂ /V ₁ by Hg porosimetry | 0.19 to 0.46; and |
| DBP/CTAB | 1.2 to 3.5. |
8. The vulcanized rubber compound of claim 12, wherein the DBP/CTAB ratio of said precipitated silica is 1.2 to 2.4.
9. The vulcanized rubber compound of claim 12, wherein the particle fineness of said precipitated silica is less than or equal to 11 μm.
10. The vulcanized rubber compound of claim 14, wherein the particle fineness of said precipitated silica is less than or equal to 10 μm. --

Remarks

In light of the above considerations, Applicants believe that the claims in the present application are in condition for allowance, and early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a phone call may help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at (703) 905-2173.

Respectfully submitted,

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